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DATE: 09/02/94

FROM: Peter J. Herz

RE: Survey of Correspondence on Rwanda

TO: AF/C: Terence McCulley

After catching up on my assigned tasks, I took the liberty of leafing through the correspondence file to see what the public is trying to tell us.

For every letter urging us to keep our hands off a conflict which doesn't concern us, there are 14 urging us to "do something."--from encouraging negotiations to using our own military to beef of UNAMIR.

Here are the main concerns:

*** Provide humanitarian aid

*** Provide temporary protected status for Rwandans currently in the U.S.

*** Keep UN forces in sight and on the ground.

*** Provide human rights monitors in both Rwanda and Burundi.

*** Convene international tribunals to try and punish the war criminals.

Several letters seem to be from letters professional associations or church groups have asked members and supporters to sign, so it appears there is some measure of organized support for further intervention in central Africa.

While most correspondents seem to want the USG to do something fast, they also are very supportive of doing it in concert with the UN and others (as if lining up a consensus and support was ever done quickly!).

The general mood seems quite close to that of the Presidential Delegation to Central Africa. It appears that a major US effort in Rwanda initially would receive widespread popular support--although what would be said later on (especially if Americans were to be killed) is probably another story.

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